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Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 STRE-00 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12
NEA-10 OIC-02 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 /132 W
---------- 014230 /42
R 151631Z DEC 76
FM USDEL MTN GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2133
INFO ALL OECD CAPS 127
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
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ACTION STR, PASS AMBASSADORS YEUTTER AND WALKER

H PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, MTN
SUBJ: MTN FRAMEOWRK IMPROVEMENT GROUP MEETING, DEC 14, 1976

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REF: A. MTN GENEVA 8819, B. MTN GENEVA 8858, C. STATE 287029

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(NOTAL, D. STATE 293868, E. MTN GENEVA 9418, F. MTN GENEVA 9138
(NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY NEW MTN FRAMEWORK IMPROVEMENT GROUP MET
BRIEFLY FOR PEACEFUL ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION DEC 14.
CONSTRUCTIVE AND LOW-KEY APPROACH OF MOST DELS IN
DISCUSSING CHAIRMANSHIP, DOCUMENTATION, FREQUENCY OF
MEETINGS, FOCUS AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING (AND EVEN NAME OF GROUP)
AVOIDED RESTATEMENT BY ANY DEL OF SUBSTANTIVE
RESERVATIONS HEARD AT NOV 5 TNC MEETING. INFORMAL
CONTACTS PRECEDING MEETING ITSELF SUGGESTED ONLY BRAZIL
ACTIVELY PREPARING PROPOSALS, BUT ALSO REVEALED SURPRISINGLY
POSITIVE JAPANESE ATTITUDE ON BOP TOPIC. NEXT MEETING OF
GROUP SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21, 1977, TO BEGIN
SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. INITIAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING HELD DEC 14 OF
NEW MTN FRAMEWORK IMPROVEMENT GROUP, FORMALLY CALLED
"GROUP ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 9 OF
THE TOKYO DECLARATION." GATT DG LONG OPENED MEETING BY
RECALLING HIS CHAIRMAN'S NOTE ON NOV 5 TNC SESSION (REF B),
AND GROUP THEN PROCEEDED THROUGH SERIES OF ORGANIZATIONAL
MATTERS IN REASONABLY BUSINESS-LIKE FASHION:

(A) CHAIRMANSHIP. GROUP ACCEPTED DG'S ANNOUNCEMENT
THAT CONSULTATIONS PROCEEDING AMONG DELS ON THIS QUESTION
AND THAT HE WOULD MEANWHILE SERVE AS INTERIM CHAIRMAN. (THIS
FORMULATION NECESSITATED BY PREVIOUS DAY'S INFORMAL
7-PLUS-7 MEETING WHERE EMERGING DC-LDC CONSENSUS ON DEGEER
OF SWEDEN SUDDENLY TORPEDOED BY AMB MARTINEZ OF
ARGENTINA WHO SURPRISED ALL DELS WITH STRONG PITCH FOR
UNSPECIFIED LDC CHAIRMAN FOR NEW GROUP. WE ARE TOLD
HIS OBJECTIVE, WHICH NOW SEEMS LIKELY TO OCCUR, IS TO
HAVE SECRETARIAT CHAIR GROUP, I.E., AVOID DC CHAIRMAN).

(B) NAME OF GROUP. IN RESPONSE TO BANGLADESH
SUGGESTION THAT GROUP BE FORMALLY DESIGNATED "FRAMEWORK
IMPROVEMENT GROUP," MOST DELS NOTED THEY ALREADY CALL
IT THAT ANYWAY AND NAME MUCH LESS IMPORTANT THAN WHAT
GROUP DOES. (THIS EPISODE REFLEECTED BANGLADESH ABSENCE
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FROM PREPARATORY DISCUSSIONS IN WHICH OTHER DELS WILLING
TO HUMOR ECCENTRIC EC (FRENCH) INSISTENCE ON A
"NEUTRAL" TITLE FOR THE GROUP).

(C) FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS. ARGENTINA URGED
ADOPTION OF TIMETABLE WHICH WOULD SCHEDULE FREQUENT
PLENARY MEETINGS THROUGHOUT 1977, IN ORDER TO ENSURE RESULTS
BY COMPLETION OF MTN IN 1977. BANGLADESH,

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EGYPT, COLOMBIA,AND URUGUAY SUPPORTED THIS POINT, BUT
CANADA AND OTHER DCS, AS WELL AS BRAZIL, ARGUED THAT MEETINGS
SHOULD BE SET IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROSPECTS FOR USEFUL
WORK, NOT ON ARBITRARY BASIS. BRAZIL (MACIEL) NOTED THAT
"FOR EVERY HOUR OF USEFUL DISCUSSION IN THE GROUP, SOME TEN
HOURS OF HOMEWORK WILL BE REQUIRED", AND THAT THE GRUOUP
SHOULD EXPECT TO MEET "AS FREQUENTLY AS NECESSARY."
GREY OF CANADA, WITH CHARACTERISTIC BLUNTNESS, PRESENTED
OPENLY FOR FIRST TIME HIS PRIVATE VIEW (MTN GENEVA 9803,
NOTAL) THAT 1977 COMPLETION DATE FOR MTN ITSELF WAS
UNREALISTIC -- EXCEPT ON SMALL PACKAGE BASIS, WHICH
CANADA OPPOSES -- AND THUS GROUP SHOULDN'T ADOPT A
TIMETABLE WITH A DISCREDITED DEADLINE.

(D) DOCUMENTATION. ROMANIAN PROPOSAL THAT GATT
SECRETARIAT "PREPARE NOTES" ON EACH OF FIVE ITEMS IN
GROUP'S WORK PROGRAM, "IN ORDER TO FACILITATE SOLUTIONS,"
GARNERED SOME LDC SUPPORT BUT PRODUCED NUMEROUS OBJECTIONS,
MOSTLY FROM DC DELS. CANADA STRESSED THAT IMMEDIATE
NEED IS FOR EXTENSIVE WORK IN CAPITALS, AND THAT
SECRETARIAT NOTES COULD COME LATER BUT WOULD BE UNHELPFUL
AT PRESENT TIME. U.S. (HARTZELL) AGREED WITH CANADA
AND NOTED PLETHORA OF EXISTING DOCUMENTATION ON ALL
TOPICS. ARGENTINA, SUPPORTED BY EC, PROPOSED PREPARATION
OF A "REFERENCE INDEX" OF RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FOR GUIDANCE
OF DELS. CANADA AGAIN OBJECTED, ALLUDING TO LACK OF FULL
AGREEMENT ON ALL WORK ITEMS, AND WARNED THAT SECRETARIAT
"SHOULD NOT RUSH IN WHERE SOME OF US FEAR TO TREAD." GREY
SUGGESTED INSTEAD THAT SECRETARIAT UP-DATE ITS EXISTING "ANALYTICAL
INDEX" (BACKGROUND NOTES ON "DRAFTING, INTERPRETATION, AND
APPLICATION OF THE GATT," LAST REVISED IN 1970). BRAZIL
SAID GROUP SHOULD START WITH PROPOSALS BY GOVERNMENTS, AND
THAT WORK ON DOCUMENTATION SHOULD FOR TIME BEING BE
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LIMITED TO COMPILATION OF EXISTING SECRETARIAT PAPERS.
DG RESPONDED THAT SECRETARIAT QUITE WILLING TO UP-DATE
ANALYTICAL INDEX, BUT WANTED TO CONSIDER FEASIBILITY OF
REQUEST TO CATALOGUE EXISTING PAPERS. HE REMINDED LDC
DELS OF AVAILABILITY OF THIS KIND OF HELP VIA SPECIAL
ASSISTANCE UNIT OF GATT SECRETARIAT'S DEVELOPMENT DIVISION.
COMMENT: SECRETARIAT SENSITIVE TO MANY PITFALLS IN
CATALOGUE PROPOSAL INCLUDING RESURRECTING DEAD OR
DISCREDITED PROPOSALS, PROVOKING ONE OR MORE DELS ON
LEGITIMACY OF WORK TOPICS, AND RISK THAT INORDINATE
TIME AND STAFF RESOURCES WOULD BE REQUIRED WITH NO USEFUL
CONTRIBUTION TO WORK OF GROUP.

(E) FUTURE WORK. IN VIEW OF KNOWN CONTINUING
RESERVATIONS BY SEVERAL DELS ON MEANING AND CONTENT OF

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SUBSTANTIVE WORK PROGRAM OUTLINED AT NOV 5 TNC
(REF A), DISCUSSION SKIRTED SUBSTANCE AND METHOD OF
FUTURE WORK AND CONVERGED ON SIMPLE VIEW THAT AT NEXT
MEETING, SUBSTANCE WOULD COME UP. (RESOLVE OF DELS TO
AVOID PROVOKING EACH OTHER INTO REPLAY OF TNC DEBATE WAS
STIFFENED BY MARTINEZ' PERFORMANCE IN THE
PREVIOUS DAY'S 7-PLUS-7, WHERE HE INSISTED (WITHOUT
SUPPORT) THAT GROUP WOULD HAVE TO DEBATE WORK PROGRAM
IMMEDIATELY IN ORDER TO DECIDE HOW TO PROCEED AT ITS
SECOND MEETING.) FORMULATION FINALLY ADOPTED, REFLECTING
U.S. MODIFICATIONS TO AN EC (LUYTEN) PROPOSAL AGAINST
THE BACKDROP OF SUGGESTIONS BY JAPAN AND BRAZIL,
PROVIDES THAT "MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WOULD ADDRESS THEM-
SELVES TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS WHICH THE GROUP IS
CALLED UPON TO DEAL WITH IN THE CONTEXT OF ITS WORK."

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R 151631Z DEC 76
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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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ACTION STR, PASS AMBASSADORS YEUTTER AND WALKER

H PASS CODEL

COMMENT: THIS LANGUAGE DOES NOT PRECLUDE EC OR CANADIAN/AUSTRALIAN
EFFORT TO BLOCK ONE OR MORE ITEMS AT NEXT MEETING, BUT
MAKES IT MORE DIFFICULT. INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH CANADIAN
AND EC MEMBER STATE DELS INDICATE INCREASING ACCEPTANCE
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OF PROSPECT THAT ALL FIVE TOPICS WILL BE DISCUSSED,
LEAVING THOSE DELEGATIONS OPTIONS OF SILENCE OR OBNOXIOUSNESS.

(F) NEXT MEETING. GROUP AGREED TO MEET AGAIN UNDER
ABOVE FORMULATION ON SUBSTANCE, DURING WEEK OF
FEBRUARY 21, 1977.

3. WHILE DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES BEFORE GROUP WAS
STUDIOUSLY AVOIDED IN FORMAL MEETING, MTN DEL WAS ABLE
TO TAKE A FEW USEFUL SOUNDINGS ON KEY TOPICS DURING
BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH BRAZIL, JAPAN, MEXICO, AND
CANADA PRIOR TO DECEMBER 14 SESSION. REGARDING
S&D/RECIPROCITY/GRADUATION NEXUS, BRAZIL (BARTHEL-ROSA)
TOLD US IT WOULD SEEK TO AVOID EARLY HARDENING
OF LDC POSITIONS; ITS PROPOSALS, TO BE DISCUSSED WITH DELS
INFORMALLY AND TABLED BEFORE OR AT NEXT MEETING, WOULD
SUGGEST "NORMS" AND CONCEPTS WHICH WOULD NOT PREJUDICE
FORM OF AGREEMENT (E.G., CODE, PROTOCOL, NOTE, AMENDMENT)
NOR ADDRESS SPECIFIC GATT ARITCLES (YET). JAPAN (UKAWA) -- WHICH
SILENT DURINGGROUP MEETING -- EXPRESSED PRIVATE CONCERN THAT EC
WILL CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO UPSET BALANCE OF WORK BY CONFINING
FRAMEWORK GROUP DISCUSSION TO ONLY NORTH/SOUTH TOPICS.
UKAWA VOICED UNEASINESS ON DC INABILITY SO FAR TO
ARTICULATE PRACTICAL APPROACH TO GRADUATION ISSUE AS PART
OF ANY "LEGALIZED" BASIS FOR S&D. PERHAPS MOST STARTLING
DEVELOPMENT WAS JAPANESE COMMENT ON BOP MEASURES: UKAWA
SAID HE WAS "IMPRESSED" WITH LATEST U.S. PROPOSALS ON BOP
TABLED IN G-18 AND FELT THAT THE "GOOD WORK" DONE IN G-18
ON BOP "OUGHT TO BE PURSUED, NOT LOST." UKAWA ADDED THAT
HE NOW THOUGHT JAPAN MIGHT FORESEE NEGOTIATING CHANGES IN
GATT BOP PROVISIONS, "PROVIDED THIS DOESN'T OPEN A
PANDORA'S BOX." COMMENT: UKAWA'S STATEMENT MADE TO TWO
MTN DEL OFFICERS AND TWO WASHINGTON VISITORS AND WE HAVE

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NO DOUBT THAT WE ARE REPORTING ACCURATELY. CONCEIVABLY,
IT SIGNIFIES THAT EARLIER JAPANESE CONCERN THAT U.S. SOUGHT
TO MAKE BOP MEASURES EASIER HAS NOW BEEN DISPELLED.
CULBERT

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760462-0120
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: ETRD, GATT, MTN
To: SECSTATE WASHDC ALL OECD CAPS 127 BELGRADE BOGOTA BRASILIA BUENOS AIRES CAIRO CARACAS
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